

## **PROGRAM REPORT**

### **Watershed Management Initiative Program**

#### Historical Perspective

The Regional Board has always felt an obligation to explain how resources are used to accomplish water quality improvements. In the 1960s, the Regional Board wrote annual regional status reports. Later, in the 1980s, the Regional Board maintained a Beneficial Use Assessment Report (BUAR). More recently, the State and Regional Board's strategic planning exercises focused attention on developing more efficient approaches for identifying and correcting water quality problems. As part of the strategic planning process, Watershed Management Initiative Chapters (WMI chapters) were created to explain how limited resources are used to address water quality issues. Initially, the focus was on core regulatory programs because the US EPA provided the funding to maintain the chapters. Later more emphasis was placed on identifying water quality issues on a watershed-by-watershed basis.

#### Current Status

The WMI chapter is maintained on the Regional Board website and is updated on an as-needed basis. Region 5 is budgeted about 1 PY to maintain the chapter and coordinate with stakeholders. The budgeted funding is insufficient to update the chapter with the continual changing priorities of the Regional Board across 3 offices. Among other things, the WMI chapter provides the basis for prioritizing Regional Board activities, including determining priorities for grants, future TMDL and nonpoint source work, and basin planning.